

1 By the office action, claims 1-3 and 12-15 were rejected as anticipated by Hall, US Pat.
2 No. 5,483,782. Claims 4-11 and 16-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected
3 base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the
4 limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5 Claims 4 and 16 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the
6 limitations from Claim 4. Since there were no intervening claims, Claim 1 is allowable as
7 indicated by the Examiner. Likewise, Claim 13 was amended to include the limitations from
8 Claim 16 and is now allowable. Claims 5, 17 and 18 were amended so as to depend from
9 allowable Claims 1 and 13.

10
11 **CONCLUSION**

12 As a result, Applicant respectfully suggests that remaining Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,
13 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 20 are allowable, as amended, and requests that the
14 rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn and the application passed to issuance.

15 Other than the one month extension fee, no additional fee is believed due. However,
16 should an additional fee be due regarding this response, please charge it to Deposit Account
17 No. 19-1453 (100-1120).
18

1 This response is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action. Should the
2 Examiner have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned attorney.

3 Respectfully submitted,

4 SHAFFER & CULBERTSON, L.L.P.

5
6 Date: 31 JAN 02

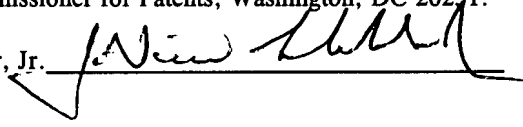
7 By: 

8 J. Nevin Shaffer, Jr., Reg. No. 29,858
9 Russell D. Culbertson, Reg. No. 32,124
10 1250 Capital of Texas Hwy. South
11 Building One, Suite 360
12 Austin, Texas 78746
13 512-327-8932

14 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

15
16
17
18 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

19 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in
20 an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

21 Reg. No. 29,858, J. Nevin Shaffer, Jr. 
22 Dated: January 31, 2002
23
24

RECEIVED

FEB 28 2002

GROUP 3600